

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305, titled Medical Dispute Resolution-General, and 133.307, titled Medical Dispute Resolution of a Medical Fee Dispute, a review was conducted by the Medical Review Division regarding a medical fee dispute between the requestor and the respondent named above. This dispute was received on 4/1/03.

I. DISPUTE

Whether there should be reimbursement of \$924.00 for an MRI provided on date of service 1/09/03. Respondent denied reimbursement as "U X375 UNNECESSARY MEDICAL TREATMENT OF SERVICE. F Z342 WHOLE PROCEDURE."

II. RATIONALE

CPT code 72146-WP-22

The Requestor performed an MRI without contrast on 1/09/03. The Respondent denied reimbursement as stated above. The Requestor obtained pre-authorization from the Respondent. The treatment/service request was for an MRI, spinal canal, thoracic, w/o contrast material. The pre-authorization number was AZP0U8-01 dated 12/31/02. Based on Rule 133.301 (a), the insurance carrier may not retrospectively review the medical necessity of a medical bill for treatment(s) and/or service(s) for which the health care provider has obtained pre-authorization. The denial code of "F" WHOLE PROCEDURE" is unclear. Based on Rule 133.304(c), a generic statement or other similar phrases with no further description of the reason for the denial of payment does not satisfy the requirements of this rule. Therefore, reimbursement **is** recommended.

III. DECISION & ORDER

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services within this request, the Medical Review Division has determined that the requestor **is** entitled to reimbursement for the referenced CPT code in the amount of **\$924.00**. Pursuant to Sections 402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 the Medical Review Division hereby ORDERS the Respondent to remit **\$924.00** plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the Requestor within 20 days receipt of this Order.

The above Findings, Decision and Order are hereby issued this 8th day of August 2003.

Pat DeVries
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

PD/pd